

REMARKS

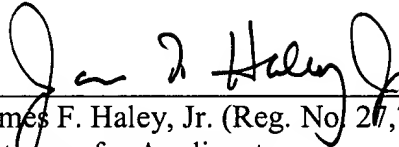
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 20, 21, 33-38, 40, 41 and 47 in this application, as set forth in the June 30, 2004 Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due and Notice of Allowability. Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment concurrently with a petition to withdraw the above-identified patent application from issue in favor of a Request for Continued Examination, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(c)(2).

Applicants request entry and allowance of added claims 48-51. The claims, which depend from allowed independent claims, recite higher percentages of sequence identity between the first DNA sequence and the second DNA sequence recited in previously allowed claims 20, 21, 33, 35, 40 and 47. Support for these added claims can be found, e.g., on page 11, second paragraph, of the specification.

Upon review of the allowed claims, applicants realized that certain aspects of their invention had not been specifically claimed. Applicants, therefore, request entry of added claims 48-51 for proper protection of the invention. These claims are patentable and are fully supported by the specification as filed. These amendments do not add new matter and require no additional examination. Each of the added claims depends from already allowed claims.

Applicants request that the Examiner enter these amendments and pass the case to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Haley, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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